

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 230546Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1767

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJ: GOT REACTION TO GREEK NOTE ON AEGEAN

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE DECEMBER 19 GREEK NOTE ON AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE WITH MFA'S AEGEAN AND LOS CHIEF TURMEN ON DECEMBER 22. TURMEN SAID THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD NOT YET FORMULATED A POSITION, MUCH LESS THE FONMIN OR THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT HE CONSIDERED THE GREEK NOTE A "STEP FORWARD." HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT SURE IF THE GOT WOULD AGREE TO TALK BASED ON THE NOTE OR WHETHER A FURTHER NARROWING OF THE DIFFERENCES WOULD BE NECESSARY. HE WAS TROUBLED BY THE CONTINUED EMPHASIS IN THE GREEK NOTE ON THE IDEA THAT THE TALKS WOULD BE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PREPARING A COMPROMISE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. HE WAS ALSO SUSPICIOUS OF THE "TONE" OF THE NOTE, I.E., HE SUSPECTED THAT THE GREEKS SIMPLY WANTED TO MEET, DISAGREE WITH ALL TURKISH SUGGESTIONS AND THEN DEMAND SUBMISSION TO THE ICJ. IF THIS WAS THEIR PURPOSE, HE SAID, IT WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARDS.

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2. TURMEN SAID A DECISION TO ACCEPT THE GREEK PROPOSAL WOULD BE A POLITICAL ONE, WHICH, HE FELT, WOULD BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY INFLUENCED BY CONSIDERATIONS OTHER THAN THE DESIRE TO RESOLVE THE SHELF DISPUTE. A RESPONSE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL EARLY JANUARY, HE INDICATED, AND IF IT WAS FAVORABLE, TALKS WOULD LIKELY BEGIN LATER THAT MONTH. TURMEN CONCLUDED THAT, IF IT WERE HIS DECISION TO MAKE, HE WOULD AGREE TO BEGIN THE TALKS.
MACOMBER

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